DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 439 897 RC 022 369

TITLE	The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development: 1999 Annual Report. NERCRD Publication #75.
INSTITUTION	Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, University Park, PA.
SPONS AGENCY	Extension Service (USDA), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	50p.
AVAILABLE FROM	For full text: http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/Publications/index.htm.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Agency Cooperation; Agricultural Education; *Community Development; Cooperative Planning; Economic Development; *Grants; *Institutional Cooperation; Leadership Training; Poverty; *Rural Development; Rural Extension; *Strategic Planning; *Sustainable Development; Vocational Education
IDENTIFIERS	Capacity Building; *Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development; United States (Northeast)

ABSTRACT

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and private foundations, and invests in research and education to help rural communities meet the challenges of today's global society through a multidisciplinary network of university research and extension faculty, policy makers, and rural development professionals. The bulk of this annual report consists of project reports, divided into subcontracts, minigrants, and initiatives. Subcontracts are seed money for projects that are multi-state, regional, or national in scope. Ten projects are described that focus on building community capacity for economic competitiveness, youth leadership training, innovative rural development models, barriers to health care for poor families, promoting ecotourism, public issues education, business retention, and rural industries' contributions to state economies. Minigrants, which average about $1,000 each, enhance and expand existing programs. Twenty-two of these are described, addressing such issues as sustainable agriculture, alleviating rural poverty, early childhood education, minority health promotion, ecotourism, gender equity, and local governmental leadership training. Two initiatives are described that concern small businesses and Y2K, and using community assets to develop workforce capacity. Each description provides collaborating partners, contact information, and key words. Outcomes of the Center's recent strategic planning meeting are presented, followed by a list of selected activities of the center director. (Contains an author and key word index.) (TD)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 439 897

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
✓ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

NERCRD publication #75

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RC 022369

Northeast Center Staff

Dr. Stephan J. Goetz • Director
(Since September 1999)

Eileen Zuber • Office Manager/ Writer-Editor

Traci Shimmel • Staff Assistant

Dorcas Holt • Staff Assistant

Northeast Center Board of Directors

Research
Dr. Arthur Allen • University of Maryland—Eastern Shore

Dr. J. Scott Angle • University of Maryland—College Park

Extension
Dr. Diane Brown • Penn State

Robert Schrader • University of Massachusetts

Non Land-grant
James B. Bays • USDA Rural Development

Kenneth Nicewicz • Massachusetts CARET Delegate

Dr. Thomas Thorburn • Food Systems Rural Development, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Administrative
Dr. David Blandford • Penn State

Dr. Sally Maggard • USDA CSREES/ECS

Patrick Sullivan • Economic Research Service USDA

Northeast Center Technical Advisory Committee

Research
Dr. Donn A. Derr • Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Dr. Tesfa G. Gebremedhin • West Virginia University

Dr. John M. Halstead • University of New Hampshire

Extension
Lois M. Frey • University of Vermont

Dr. Rod Howe • Cornell University

Dr. Tom Ilvento • University of Delaware

Administrative
Dr. Ted Maher • USDA CSREES ECS

• Table of Contents

Preface iii

Introduction iv

Project Reports 1

Subcontracts: 1

Building Community Capacity for Economic Competitiveness (New York) 1
Building Community Capacity for Economic Competitiveness (Vermont) 1
Building Teens for Better Communities 2
Factors Influencing Local Decisionmakers' Choices of Economic Development Policies 3
The Impact of a Flexible Manufacturing Network on Participants and Communities 4
Obtaining Care: Self-Care Practices and Barriers to Accessing Health Care Services Among Poor Families with Children in the Rural Northeast 5
Portfolio-Based Development Policy Alternatives for the New England Economy 6
Promoting Ecotourism on Private Lands 7
Public Issues Education and Collaborative Problem Solving in the Northeast 8
Validity Analysis of Key Informant Aggregation Methods for Community Development Research 10

Mini-grants: 11

Agricultural Leadership Enhancement Program 11
Aquaculture in Farm Ponds and other Small Water Bodies 12
Building Livable Communities Videotape and Facilitator's Handbook 12
Computer Technology for Agricultural Producers 13
Cultivating Hope: A Conference on Rural Poverty 14
Development of an Educational IPM Poster for Farm Vegetable Markets 15
Development of a Farm Labor Service Cooperative 15
Early Childhood Community Library 16
Expansion of Pennsylvania Feeder Calf Roundup 17
First Impressions Program 18
Food Matters: Evaluation Participation 18
Investing for Your Future 19
Livestock Slaughterhouse Cooperative Business Plan Survey 20
Local Government Issues Assessment 20
Minority Health Promotion 21
Money 2000 Evaluation Research Project 22

• Table of Contents

Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation Program 23
Northern New York Urban Forest Demonstration Arboretum 24
Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture 25
Reaching Out with Education: Speaking to the Issues 26
Strengthening Voice: Speaking Up for Gender Equity 27
Telling Our Stories: Pathways from Poverty Project 27

Initiatives: 29

Small Business Y2K 29
Workforce Development: Building on Community Assets to Increase Workforce Capacity 29

Center Hosts Freedom House Visiting Fellow 31

Strategic Planning Outcome 31

Selected Activities of the Center Director (September – December1999) 37

Author Index 38

Keyword Index 40

• Preface

About the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (Northeast Center) receives funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Additional funds are secured from private foundations to further the efforts of special projects. Funds are used to link the rural development efforts of the15 land-grant institutions in the region to encourage and support regional cooperation. The region encompasses 12 states and the District of Columbia. The twelve states include Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia.

The Northeast Center is guided by a technical advisory committee and governed by a board of directors. The technical advisory committee is composed of faculty from the region's 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions, a representative from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service—USDA, and an executive director of a state rural development council within the region. The technical advisory committee reviews letters of intent and proposals, evaluates and recommends research and extension projects and priorities to the board. The board is composed of administrators from the region's 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions; Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service—USDA; Economic Research Service—USDA; and public and private sectors. The board establishes policies and sets programming emphases.

The Northeast Center serves two primary audiences: direct users and end users. Direct users are the professionals conducting research and developing and delivering educational programs. End users are rural communities and rural people who benefit from the programs.

This publication is available on the Northeast Center's Web site: (http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/). We invite you to use any of the information from our electronic or printed media. Additional copies of reports or other publications can be obtained by contacting the Northeast Center. Please cite the Northeast Center whenever reprinting materials and submit a copy to us for our files.

• Introduction

With one-quarter of the nation's population living in rural areas, there is a need to invest in research and education to help rural people and their communities meet the challenges and opportunities that exist in today's global society. The land-grant institutions have a long history of applied scholarship and an established presence helping rural communities deal with issues.

For more than 20 years, the Northeast Center and its counterparts in the other regions have supported and strengthened rural communities through their multidisciplinary network of university research and extension faculty and their liaisons with state, regional and national policy makers, community decision makers, and other rural development professionals. The Northeast Center provides seed money for projects that are multi-state, regional or national in scope, awards mini-grants to creatively expand innovative extension programs, and evaluates research methods currently operating within the region. Extension mini-grants may be used to enhance program materials, make materials available in new formats (using new electronic technology), expand implementation to new locations or to new audiences, or as matching funds to leverage new resources.

The five goals that guided programming for fiscal year 1999 include:

- To Improve Economic Competitiveness and Diversification
- To Support Management and Strategic Planning for Economic Investment
- To Create Capacity Through Leadership
- To Assist in Family and Community Adjustments to Stress and Change
- To Promote Constructive Use of the Environment

The Northeast Center's annual report provides insight into the people and organizations involved in the development of its activities, programs, projects and publications each year. This report is organized by a table of contents and indexed by keywords and authors. Contact information is provided to encourage information sharing. Project information was edited for wider readability. Whenever possible, we retained the voice/words of each author to illustrate the diversity of players represented.

- Project Reports
- Subcontracts

Building Community Capacity for Economic Competitiveness ($7,750)

A research team coupled their efforts on this project with a companion effort funded by the Ford Foundation to look at the impacts of HUD's Canal Corridor Initiative (CCI) funding on communities in selected counties in New York State. Accordingly, 28 counties in New York were selected as the primary units for investigation and service. These counties all border the four components of the canal system (Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Seneca-Cayuga) in New York. The plan is to examine these counties to determine their similarities and differences in terms of their economic and social structure as a basis for selection of particular communities (towns and villages) for more in-depth analysis and as places to help with capacity building. An objective is to analyze the structure of the economies of these counties as a context and benchmark, first, to understand why they participated or not in the Canal funding opportunities and, second, to examine later the impact of these funding opportunities on their economies and social structure. The key hypothesis is that successful community participation in programs like this depends on the community's capacity and development plans.

Collaborating partners: Cornell University, Ford Foundation, University of Vermont.

Keywords: community capacity, economic competitiveness, economic development

For more information about this project, contact:

Joe D. Francis
Department of Rural Sociology
235 Warren Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
E-mail: jdf2@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-1687

Building Community Capacity for Economic Competitiveness ($6,750)

This project has four main objectives: (1.) To identify high-need rural communities eligible for periodic federal and state monies; (2.) Collect data from key informants on community development planning capacities, in order to create a fourfold typology (the 4 types of communities are: high-need/low-capacity; low-need/low capacity; high-need/high-capacity; low-need/high capacity); (3.) Form a research-action team consisting of sociologists, planners, and resource economists at land-grant universities (Cornell and University of Vermont) capable of using electronic technologies and other forms of conferencing with field staff of various kinds; and (4.) Forge a partnership with

community leaders and development planners in high-need/low-capacity communities to formulate and implement action plans for taking advantage of funding opportunities.

Collaborating partners: Cornell University, Ford Foundation, University of Vermont.

Keywords: community capacity, economic competitiveness, economic development

For more information about this project, contact:

Fred Schmidt, Director
Center for Rural Studies
207 Morrill Hall
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05405
E-mail: fschmidt@zoo.uvm.edu
Phone: (802) 656-3021

Building Teens for Better Communities ($19,964)

Building Teens for Better Communities is a tri-state effort to test the Youth as Partners approach with a small-scale community development project. The program provides youth in Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia with a community development experience, which increases their sense of themselves as leaders.

Projects formed include:

- Boys and Girls Club and the Hagerstown (MD) Housing Authority. Conduct an after-school program, which includes academic tutoring, arts and crafts, substance abuse prevention and physical recreation at a public housing project.
- Riverview Youth Leadership Team, Baltimore, Maryland. Initiate a park improvement project at Hillcrest Park with the goal of making the park more attractive to the people in their community.
- 4-H Teen Council, Newton, New Jersey. Form a collaborative partnership between teen youth and adult community leaders in an effort to teach diversity awareness to students enrolled in after-school programs.
- Teen Community Leaders, Martinsburg,West Virginia. Promote community tutoring services by becoming peer contacts for students with problems, serving as "Homework Helpers" and assisting with referrals to existing services.

The *Building Teens for Better Communities* project team conducted two workshops—"Focus Groups as a Tool for Understanding Perceptions and Experiences" and "Building Teens for Better Communities Project Overview"at the NAE4-H Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh on October 25-26, 1999. A conference is planned for April 7-9, 2000, at the Hashawha Center in Westminster, Maryland. The teams will showcase what they've learned and share ideas and tips for getting started. The conference will focus on team

building, community assessment tools, leadership skills and networking. Registration is limited to 100 to ensure a high level of individual and team participation.

Collaborating partners: Amy Schnappinger, Mary Ellen Waltemire, and Kendra Wells, Maryland Cooperative Extension; Sherman Tomasino, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service; Arthena Sewell Roper, West Virginia University Extension Service; Hagerstown (MD) Boys and Girls Club and the Hagerstown Housing Authority; Baltimore County Recreation and Parks and Maryland Save Our Streams; Newton (NJ) School District, Extension and community volunteers, and K.E.E.P. (Kids Educational Enrichment Programs); Martinsburg (WV) Youth Center and local school.

Keywords: community development, youth

For more information about this project, contact:

Nan Booth
Associate Professor/Community Development Specialist
Institute for Governmental Service
4511 Knox Road, Suite 205
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: nb11@umail.umd.edu
Phone: (301) 403-4610

Factors Influencing Local Decision-Makers' Choice of Economic Development Policies ($20,332)

The focus of this project involved conducting a telephone survey of Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) coordinators who conducted programs in the last five years to better understand the factors that led them and the communities they worked in to undertake a BR&E program. State program leaders identified coordinators in six states (West Virginia, Minnesota, North Dakota, Maine, Nebraska, and Kentucky) that had a similar community approach to BR&E and used volunteers. A total of 95 coordinators were identified, and eighty responded to the survey during the summer and fall of 1998 (85% response rate). For the most part, coordinators reported few concerns or conflicts prior to beginning a BR&E program. However, coordinators reported that many businesses were not aware of programs available to them and that simply knowing about a BR&E program was a motivating factor in initiating a program. Coordinators also reported citizens were unaware of economic development and the problems faced by local businesses. Coordinators said that what attracted them to undertake a BR&E program was that the program responded to local business needs, focused on existing local business, allowed for local decision making, and resulted in a written report, which included an implementation plan of how to prioritize projects.

Collaborating partners: University of Delaware and West Virginia University.

Keywords: Business Retention and Expansion

Factors Influencing Local Decision-Makers Choice of Economic Development Policies (continued)

For more information about this project, contact:

Scott Loveridge
Regional Research Institute
P.O. Box 6825
Morgantown, WV 26506-6825
E-mail: sloverid@wvu.edu
Phone: (304) 293-8734

Thomas W. Ilvento
Acting Chair, Food and Resource Economics
University of Delaware
213 Townsend Hall
Newark, DE 199717
E-mail: ilvento@udel.edu
Phone: (302) 831-6773

The Impact of a Flexible Manufacturing Network on Participants and Communities ($12,554)

This study is designed to highlight the impacts of an innovative rural development model (Appalachian By Design) on members and their families. The project demonstrates the need for alternative income-generating strategies in parts of rural Appalachia, especially for low-income households and women. Economic restructuring in recent decades has had devastating impacts on communities dependent on coal mining and manufacturing. Gender is an important aspect of this restructuring, and there is a need to address this in terms of economic strategies. The analysis and findings will inform experts about the potential transferability of this model in rural areas of the Northeast. This information also will be used by Appalachian By Design to make decisions about its expansion in the region. The evaluation will address whether or not this model is appropriate for diverse settings where transportation and the economic base are different from the original model. Additionally, a set of recommendations will be made regarding the usage of Internet linkages for rural home-based business networks. Results of this project will be shared with economic development groups and regional scholars. The project partners will evaluate the project based on whether or not these outcomes have been achieved.

Keywords: Appalachian By Design, flexible manufacturing network, rural home-based business networks

Collaborating partners: Karen Jacobson, Appalachian By Design (WV); and Mikal McCartney, Garret County (MD) Community Action, Inc.

The Impact of a Flexible Manufacturing Network on Participants and Communities (continued)

For more information about this project, contact:

Ann Oberhauser
Associate Professor of Geography
Department of Geology and Geography
P.O. Box 6300
Morgantown, WV 26505
E-mail: oberhauser@geo.wvu.edu
Phone: (304) 293-5603 ext. 4329

Obtaining Care: Self-Care Practices and Barriers to Accessing Health Care Services Among Poor Families with Children in the Rural Northeast ($20,402)

This project had three objectives:

1.) To discover and describe the types of barriers rural limited-resource families encounter when attempting to access health care services, and what these families do when barriers are encountered;
2.) To investigate and describe ways in which these families cope with illness through self-care practices; that is, self-treatment;
3.) To explore the consequences of illness for the well-being of these families.

Counties selected for this study are located in the Appalachian region of New York and Pennsylvania (one in New York and two contiguous counties in Pennsylvania). These counties exhibit a fairly high level of poverty and are fairly similar to one another demographically. Unstructured in-depth personal interviews were conducted with the primary female caregiver (the mother) in 37 limited-resource families with children. At the conclusion of the interview, a face-to-face structured survey was administered to obtain standardized, closed and open-ended responses to a series of questions about the family's health care practices, experiences, and perceptions. This information was used to study self-care practices, access to professional health care services, and barriers to access in the sample.

During the past year, between 24% and 40% of the respondents indicated that they or a household member needed help from a health care provider, such as a doctor, nurse, dentist, or optometrist for a health care problem but did not get that help. Typically, the reason for not getting help was the lack of insurance or money-related reason. Respondents were more likely to indicate having problems gaining access to a dentist for problems with their teeth or gums than to some other health care provider. This problem was particularly evident in the Pennsylvania sample. Initial analyses from the in-depth (unstructured) interviews indicate that those women with at least a few strong ties with local family members were best able to access needed health care services and to function

effectively within the local health care system. Some of these women also had friends and neighbors they could draw on for support and help when needed. In contrast, women who were more isolated from family (even if family members lived in the local area) seemed to face steeper barriers.

Data from the study may be used in preparation of grant proposals aimed at alleviating local barriers to health care services or more large-scale demonstrations of the need for health care services in the area (such as dental).

Keywords: barriers to health care, self-care practices

For more information about this project, contact:

Cathy Kassab, Research Associate
The Pennsylvania State University
Institute for Policy Research and Evaluation
N253 Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: xzc@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 865-9561

Deborah Preston, Associate Professor of Nursing
School of Nursing
The Pennsylvania State University
209 Health and Human Development East
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: dqp@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 863-8088

Portfolio-Based Development Policy Alternatives for the New England Economy ($16, 621)

The New England economy seems especially susceptible to fluctuations in the business cycle and, as a result, recessions start earlier in New England and last longer than in other regions of the United States. To manage the fluctuations associated with the value of an individual's portfolio, diversification of financial instruments is usually recommended by financial analysts. This raises the question of whether strategic state budgeting can support a diverse portfolio of industries that would in turn serve as an engine of stable growth for the New England region. Many analysts regard the Massachusetts economy as the cornerstone of the New England economy and an appropriate industry mix in Massachusetts may be critical to improved economic stability in the region.

The final report from this study "Massachusetts Agriculture and Resources 2000" by Tandiwe L. Njobe and L. Joe Moffitt provides a profile of prominent agricultural and rural industries for the state of Massachusetts. For each industry covered in the report, an outline of the current and recent situation is given and supported by tables, charts and

graphs with data from recent years. Each chapter ends with a summary outlook in which factors that may influence the future of the industry are discussed. The industries included in this report are aquaculture, cranberries, fruit and vegetables, dairy, food processing, greenhouse and nursery, and poultry.

The final chapter is devoted to a discussion and results of a portfolio analysis for 2-digit Massachusetts industries; in this chapter, the results of an optimal industry portfolio capable of generating superior returns are presented. The results show that the optimal portfolio involves emphasizing very few industries.

Overall, rural industries continue to contribute importantly to the Massachusetts' and New England regional economies and, if the past is any indicator, may be expected to continue to successfully adapt to the challenges presented during the twentieth first century.

Keywords: policy alternatives, portfolio-based development, rural development

For more information about this project, contact:

L. Joe Moffitt, Professor
Department of Resource Economics
Box 32040, Draper Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-2040
E-Mail: moffitt@resecon.umass.edu
Phone: (413) 545-5719

Promoting Ecotourism on Private Lands ($12,141)

Ecotourism depends on natural resources such as forests, mountains, rivers and lakes. Most ecotourism activities take place on public lands or waterways but are supported by a network of locally owned businesses. This project focused on determining existing and potential ecotourism activities, and identifying a set of key personal, environmental, economic and social factors needed for successful ecotourism operations, including barriers to their success. The study area included Bedford and Somerset counties in Pennsylvania, and Garrett and Allegany counties in Maryland.

In-depth interviews were chosen as the primary method for collecting data to gain a deeper understanding of the nature-based tourism industry and factors affecting the success of individual nature-based tourism. A list of 40 potential key informants was compiled, including individuals from state and county government agencies, tour operators and private landowners with ecotourism-related businesses. An interview instrument was designed to obtain the information base for this study. The instrument provides for a guided interview format that allows specific topics to be addressed in any order, at different lengths, and in varied depth by each interviewee. This has the

advantage of letting interviewees freely give their insights on nature-based tourism and the factors affecting its success.

Most of the originally-planned set of key informant interviews have been conducted. Factors identified for successful ecotourism include basic enterprise start up information and marketing skills, a supportive community attitude, accessibility to markets, and natural resource amenities. Results of this study will be translated into business profiles, which will be disseminated through research and extension publications. Private landowners and local entrepreneurs interested in additional sources of income should be able to use these guidelines to start (or run) businesses that support ecotourism activities. Results also should help guide the decisions of state government and county agencies, and other organizations interested in promoting ecotourism.

Collaborating partners: James Finley, School of Forest Resources, Penn State, and Jonathan Kays, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension

Keywords: ecotourism, non-industrial private forest landowners, income opportunities

For more information about this project, contact:

Marc McDill, Assistant Professor
School of Forest Resources
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: mem14@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 865-1602

Gabriela Silva
School of Forest Resources
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: mgs154@psu.edu
(814) 865-1602

Public Issues Education and Collaborative Problem Solving in the Northeast ($16,551)

This project addressed three primary questions: First, to what extent and in what manner is the cooperative extension system in the Northeast already engaged in public issues education? Second, what is the potential to build the capacity of cooperative extension in the Northeast to constructively engage in public issues education? Third, how does or might cooperative extension work with dispute resolution profession in public issues education work? The project pursued both data gathering and network and capacity building agendas through a series of phone and mail surveys, small group meetings, and sub-state and multi-state regional training, planning, and capacity building workshops.

This research confirmed that there is substantial existing cooperative extension educator involvement in public issues education across a wide range of issue areas on the part of both county-based faculty and state specialists. Though the nature and extent of this involvement is context specific—varying especially by location, state and issue—overall it incorporates process roles such as facilitator, convenor and even less commonly conflict mediator as well as the more widespread cooperative extension information delivery roles.

An important outcome of this project is the new regional networking that has developed between public issues education practitioners. Links to an emerging national network also were established. The need for more context-based skills training, better evaluation of public issues education approaches and outcomes, and system-wide validation/legitimization of public issues education activities were highlighted.

The project identified limited current interaction between cooperative extension and the professional dispute resolution communities, but also noted significant and active mutual interest in building this relationship more systematically, especially but not only in Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Additional tangible steps to this end have been taken.

As an indirect benefit, the project helped build momentum for and participation in at least four major related follow-up activities. These activities included a New York-focused public issues education teleconference, an action research project in New York focused on the county-based boards that establish policy for local cooperative extension offices, a Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) project designed to foster stronger relationships between extension and community dispute resolution centers in communities with agriculture/environment conflicts, and a major national cooperative extension system training and planning workshop on public issues education.

Collaborating Partners: Mary Schlarb, Program on Environment, Cornell University; Lisa Hicks, New York State Dispute Resolution Center; Cornell Cooperative Extension's Public Issues Education Task Force; Charles Abdalla, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, and Barbara Gray, Center for Research in Conflict and Negotiation, Penn State; Phil Favero, Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland.

Keywords: collaborative problem solving, conflict resolution, public issues education

For more information about this project, contact:
David Kay, Project Coordinator
The Cornell Local Government Program
253 Warren Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-7801
E-mail: dlk2@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-1583

Public Issues Education and Collaborative Problem Solving in the Northeast (continued)

David L. Pelletier, Associate Professor
3M14 MVR Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
E-mail: dlp5@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-8093

Tahnee Robertson, Program Coordinator
Cornell Program on Environmental Conflict Management
Center for the Environment
112c Rice Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
E-mail: tmr5@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-4523

Validity Analysis of Key Informant Aggregation Methods for Community Development Research ($2,697)

This research project investigated the differential validity of several aggregation methods that are used in multiple key informant community development research. The multiple key informant methodology asks the same questions about activities or structures in the community of several knowledgeable informants in that community. With this methodology, if all respond identically, then the consensus response is the response attributed to the community for analytical purposes. If, however, their response differ, then this question is raised, "What value should be attributed to the community for analytical purposes?" The manner in which the value is determined is known as the aggregation method. Several methods have been used in the past (including the modal response, the mean response, any yes response, and other hybrid methods), although none have been tested for validity. This research is determining which of the methods is generally most valid and under what circumstances and, it is hoped, why.

Collaborating partners: Carolyn Lembeck, PA Office of Rural Health, Penn State; Drew Hyman, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Penn State; and Jeffrey Bridger, Institute for Policy Research, Penn State.

Keywords: community development, key informant, research methodology

Validity Analysis of Key Informant Aggregation Methods for Community Development Research (continued)

For more information about this project, contact:

Mike Schwartz
Research Associate
PA Office of Rural Health
202 Beecher/Dock House
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: mrs9@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 863-8214

• Mini-grants:

Agricultural Leadership Enhancement Program ($1,000 Mini-grant)

Revitalization of both the rural community and the agriculture/food industry is dependent on skilled community leaders. The primary goal of the Agricultural Leadership Enhancement Program is to provide opportunity for the future leaders in all levels of the agri-food industry to develop the skills, knowledge, the broad perspective and the positive attitude needed to move agriculture into the new millennium. Through ten meetings over a twelve-month period (April 99 – March 2000), participants will engage in daylong workshops about Personal Development, Interpersonal Development and Community Development. Bus tours will provide on-site experiences on farms, processing facilities, and local and state government meetings.

Collaborating partners: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County; Cornell Cooperative Extension Campus Staff; The Empire State Food and Agriculture Leadership Institute (LEAD NY); Chenango County Chamber of Commerce; SUNY Morrisville College of Ag and Tech Norwich Campus; The Leadership Chenango County Program; Numerous financial community donors from the private sector of the greater Chenango County area.

Keywords: agricultural leadership

For more information about this project, contact:

Eric L. Schimke
Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Chenango County
99 North Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815
E-mail: els11@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 334-5841

Aquaculture in Farm Ponds and Other Small Water Bodies ($1,000 Mini-grant)

While private, commercial aquaculture has existed in northern New England for more than 25 years, the majority of aquaculturists today are new farmers with little experience. One of the major problems faced by these new fish farmers is the difficulty of efficiently harvesting their ponds. Virtually none of the ponds in use today were designed for fish culture, and many of them are not easily harvestable. Ponds that are harvestable are not harvested efficiently because the farmers are not familiar with standard, successful harvest techniques. Most of the farmers are attempting to trap their fish or catch them by hook and line, neither of which is profitable for a commercial operation. The goal of this project is to conduct a series of training sessions on seining techniques. The seine net is emphasized because it is the most widely used, efficient method for harvesting fishponds. Training is scheduled for June – July 2000.
Collaborating partners: Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, New Hampshire Aquaculture Association, Time & Tide Resource Conservation & Development, and Vermont Aquaculture Association.

Keywords: aquaculture, farm ponds

For more information about this project, contact:

J.J. Newman
Extension Specialist, Aquaculture
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
Kingman Farm
Durham, NH 03824
E-mail: jj.newman@unh.edu
Phone: (603) 749-1565

Building Livable Communities Videotape and Facilitator's Handbook ($1,200 Mini-grant)

Building Livable Communities is a new videotape and facilitator's guidebook on sustainable community development practice. It is told through the voices of municipal officials (township supervisor, borough council member, state representative) representing the Pennsylvania rural areas of Mercer and Lancaster Counties, and the rural town of Tamaqua. The videotape provides a unique glimpse into each of these communities and ways in which they incorporated sustainable community development practices. Mercer County (western PA) has struggled with issues related to downsizing of the steel and steel-related industry, massive layoffs and a depressed economy. Tamaqua (northeastern PA) has struggled with the decline of the anthracite coal industry and its connection with the decline of the railroad industry. Lancaster County (southern PA) has been struggling with issues related to growth—traffic congestion, land use, water quality, and long range comprehensive planning decisions.

The 22-minute videotape and 12-page facilitator's guidebook will be useful to anyone interested in learning more about sustainable community development. The guidebook contains discussion questions to help a community begin to look at ways to incorporate sustainable community development practice. A viewer's evaluation also is included.

Collaborating partners: Agricultural Information Services and Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Penn State.

Keywords: community, municipal government, sustainable development, rural development

For more information about this project, contact:
William "Bill" Hosler
Extension Agent
Community and Economic Development
Penn State Cooperative Extension Service
114 Woodbine Lane, Suite 102
Danville, PA 17821
E-mail: wrh4@psu.edu
Phone: (570) 275-3731

Computer Technology for Agriculture Producers (Ctap 2000) ($1,000 Mini-grant)

On January 19, 2000, a computer technology educational seminar for agriculture producers (Ctap 2000) was held at the Sheraton in Mars, Pennsylvania. Other participants include trade show exhibitors and extension agents from the 15 county area of western Pennsylvania, plus eastern Ohio, southwest New York and northwest West Virginia. Ninety-five participants attended the daylong event. Sixty-five percent of the participants responding to the evaluation survey indicated they were first time participants. Eight of the Ctap presentations were videotaped for possible duplication and distribution to interested county extension offices in western Pennsylvania.
There have been 37 requests for specific tapes.

Collaborating partners: Ag Choice Farm Credit and Penn State Cooperative Extension

Keywords: agricultural computing, computer, electronic technology, farmers and computers

For more information about this project, contact:
Donald C. Fretts
Extension Agent
Penn State Cooperative Extension
61 East Main
Uniontown, PA 15401
E-mail: dcf3@psu.edu
Phone: (724) 438-0111

Cultivating Hope: A Regional Conference on Rural Poverty ($1,000)

Cultivating Hope: A Regional Conference on Rural Poverty was held March 19, 1999. The conference focused on the unique challenges of the low-income population in a rural community, and ways to develop collaborative solutions to address these challenges.

A publication developed from the conference focuses on the issues that impact the community, such as welfare reform, domestic violence, youth and children, homelessness, hunger, economic development, elders, economic inequality, and rural diversity. National and statewide trends are juxtaposed against the local information for greater understanding. The publication was distributed throughout the MA region to community members from local towns in North Quabbine and Franklin County, political leaders, scholars, and numerous organizations.

Follow-up committees have been formed on three issues: basic needs, welfare reform and transportation. A needs assessment and action plan for the county was developed in July of 1999. One of the models, the *Good News Garage*, addresses the issue of limited transportation in the rural communities of the North Quabbin/Franklin County area. This nationally recognized program acquires donations of cars, repairs and then sells them to low-income people for the cost of the repairs. Other collaborative groups have formed action committees throughout the region.

This conference and the resulting publication were important first steps in an ongoing effort to showcase the unique needs of low-income people in rural communities and to bring resources to these regions to meet their specific challenges.

Collaborating partners: Greenfield Savings Bank, Kaiser Permanente and Massachusetts Rural Development Council (sponsors); Community Health of Franklin County, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Greater Western Massachusetts Prevention Center, Legislative Small Town & Rural Caucus, North Quabbin Community Coalition, and Western Massachusetts Legal Services. This is a continuation of the Massachusetts' Pathways from Poverty team efforts.

Keywords: public policy, rural poverty, working poor

For more information about this project, contact:

Wendy Varner, Director of
Development and Planning
Franklin Community Action Corp.
393 Main St.
Greenfield, MA 01301
E-mail: fcac@valinet.com
Phone: (413) 774-2318 ext. 125

Development of an Educational Integrated Pest Management Poster for Farm Vegetable Markets ($1,000)

The purpose of this project is to develop ten Integrated Pest Management educational posters. The posters will present a summary definition of IPM, list factors showing the importance of IPM, and indicate produce items that were grown using IPM practices. The posters will be displayed at farm retail produce markets throughout the 2000-growing season. Farm market customers will be surveyed to assess the impacts of the IPM educational posters. The survey will assess the consumer's awareness of IPM, their perception of agricultural practices, and consumer buying habits. The results will be compared to consumer views from a 1997 IPM survey. Participating farmers also will be interviewed to get their opinions of how well the posters were perceived.

Keywords: Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

For more information about this project, contact:

Joe Ingerson-Mahar
Vegetable IPB Coordinator
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
243 Blake Hall
93 Lipman Drive
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8524
E-mail: mahar@aesop.rutgers.edu
Phone: (732) 932-9802

Development of a Farm Labor Service Cooperative ($1,000 Mini-grant)

This project involves establishing a farm labor service cooperative for small- and middle-sized dairy farms in Vermont to serve as a source of specialized labor when needed. A farmer would pay one fee to the cooperative for the services of the temporary employee, leaving all paperwork and taxes for the cooperative to handle. The farm labor service cooperative could provide emergency service for injured farmers and could be used to reduce stress by providing farmers respite from being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The cooperative could provide a source of economic vitality to the rural community by providing opportunities for young people to learn about agricultural employment while working as a relief operator. One goal of the project is to expand the cooperative to include all farms and not just animal agriculture.

The cooperative will be promoted to other farmers, Local Workforce Investment Boards, VT Department of Employment & Training (and similar agencies in other states), Associated Industries of Vermont, Vermont banking and loan institutions, Small Business Development Centers, and Technical Instructional Centers.

Collaborating Partners: Vermont dairy farmers, farm cooperatives and organizations ($3,216) ($2,300 pending), USDA Rural Development Rural Business Economic Grant ($14,300).

Keywords: dairy farm labor service cooperative

For more information about this project, contact:

Richard LeVitre
Regional Dairy Specialist
University of Vermont Extension
1 Scale Avenue, Unit 55
Rutland, VT 05701-4452
E-mail: richard.levitre@uvm.edu
Phone: (802) 773-3349

Early Childhood Community Library ($1,000 Mini-grant)

This project involves establishing an informal community library for families with children ages birth to age 8 (primary focus on birth through kindergarten) in the rural area of Accord/Kerhonkson, NY; the local school district reports a 49% poverty rate in this area. This project builds on the Bookstart summer series that was offered for parents and caregivers in the area. Through a library system grant from Ellenville Public Library and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, 90 high quality books have been secured to serve as nucleus of this library project. A modest preliminary marketing and resource solicitation effort has brought results. Handouts, two information sessions, radio, newsletter and personal contacts have been used to educate the community and have garnered used books, and business and personal donations ranging from twenty-five cents to six hundred dollars, totaling $1,100.25. Additional resources including bookshelves, paint, volunteer labor and programming assistance have recently been promised. A 4-H club is turning animal-shaped slippers purchased at clearance sales into puppets as story extenders. A scout troup has agreed to paint the site walls, and high school athletes performing team community service are a potential resource for site preparation and set-up.

Collaborating partners: Town of Rochester Youth Commission, Rondout Valley Central School District, Ellenville Public Library, Stone Ridge Library, Rochester Reformed Church, Head Start, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Kerhonkson/Accord Chamber of Commerce.

Keywords: early childhood community library

Early Childhood Community Library (continued)

For more information about this project, contact:

Susan B. Matson, CFCS
Extension Educator-Human Development
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
10 Westbrook Lane
Kingston, NY 12401
E-mail: sbm9@cornell.edu
Phone: (914) 340-3990

Expansion of the Pennsylvania Feeder Calf Roundup Beef Cattle Marketing Program ($1,000 Mini-grant)

Pennsylvania calf producers are at a disadvantage in the marketplace for feeder cattle because their herds are small, the diversity of management and breeds is large, and access to competitive markets is limited. The *Roundup* program seeks to overcome these obstacles by using a standardized health and management program in cooperator herds; pooling the production from many herds; sorting, grading, and weighing to assimilate truckload-sized lots of uniform cattle from many herds; and offering the cattle for sale on a "teleauction" sale (an extensive conference telephone bidding process). County extension agents are heavily involved in assisting and supervising the management program in local herds, providing educational and awareness programs, and summarizing the results for their local cooperators. Other cooperators include animal pharmaceutical representatives, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture representatives, and bonded livestock sales agents. The program thus far has been confined to southwestern and west-central Pennsylvania. This project will expand the *Roundup* program to additional county extension offices, livestock marketers, feed dealers, and veterinarians throughout Pennsylvania by developing a program description and summary available in CD format.

Collaborating partners: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, West Virginia University.

Keywords: feeder calf, *Roundup* program

For more information about this project, contact:

John W. Comerford
Associate Professor
Dairy & Animal Science
The Pennsylvania State University
324 Henning Building
University Park, PA 16802-3503
Phone: (814) 865-5491
E-mail: jcomerford@das.psu.edu

First Impressions Program Evaluation ($1,000 Mini-grant)

The objective of this project is to develop and implement an evaluation tool for the *First Impressions* program. The program provides an unbiased perspective that can help a community learn about its strengths and weaknesses as seen through the eyes of a first-time visitor. It is a useful tool for increasing people's awareness of community strengths and areas of concern. Formal reports spur community action to address such topics as how to make the community more attractive to visitors, residents, and potential business people, and how to capitalize on community strengths and assets. Two surveys will be developed, one for volunteer visitors who have participated in community visits and another for communities that have participated in the *First Impressions Program.* The findings from both surveys should provide valuable information on strategies to improve the program and strengthen its impact on community development.

Keywords: amenities approach to community and economic development, community aesthetics

For more information about this project, contact:

Alison Chisholm Hanham
Business Research Analyst
Center for Community, Economic & Workforce Development
West Virginia University Extension Service
702 Knapp Hall
P.O. Box 6031
Morgantown, WV 26506-6031
Phone: (304) 293-6967, ext. 3342
E-mail: ahanham@wvu.edu

Food Matters: Evaluating the Participation of County, City, and Town Planners in Community Food Systems ($1,000 Mini-grant)

This project has several objectives: (1.) To assess the current level of involvement of county or municipal planners in food system activities in southeast and southwest Pennsylvania; (2.) To discover how food system planning can become a part of planners' everyday responsibilities; and (3.) To find out what factors would influence planners to become more involved in food system activities. The study is targeting county and municipal planners in the areas in and around Philadelphia and Pittsburgh (18 counties) as a way to explore the connections between urban and rural communities in Pennsylvania and those on the rural/urban fringe. The goal is to help create local sustainable food systems and improve people's access to local foods.

In March 2000, thirty-six telephone interviews are scheduled to be conducted with county or municipal planners in the study area. The questionnaire was developed and reviewed by project personnel, professional planners, and participants in the NE-185 research

project: Commodities, Consumers, and Communities: Local Food Systems in a Globalizing Environment.

Abstracts based on this study have been submitted for peer review for two conferences at which the results of this study would be presented in June 2000. The conferences are sponsored by the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Collaborating partners: Audrey Maretzki, Department of Food Sciences, and Joan Thomson, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, Penn State.

Keywords: local food system, planners, regional planning

For more information about this project, contact:

Jennifer Abel
Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Agricultural and Extension Education
111 Borland Lab
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: jla209@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 863-3106

Investing for Your Future ($1,000 Mini-grant)

This mini-grant supports the development of a PowerPoint presentation to adapt a newly written 11-unit (100-page) home study course to teach basic investment concepts to beginning investors with small dollar amounts. The project team is in the process of developing a six-week basic investing class series that will complement the home study course that is currently available in print format and on the Internet <www.investing.rutgers.edu>. The course is the collaborative effort of a consortium of six land-grant universities and two federal agencies, including the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

A copy of the course, plus two days of training will be offered to representatives of all northeast states. State FCS Program Leaders have been notified about the Investing for Your Future class series project. Plans are underway for submissions to several professional journals and for conference presentations in the year 2000.

Collaborating partners: CSREES-USDA, Clemson University, Michigan State University, University of Idaho, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and Virginia Tech.

Keywords: beginner investment curriculum

Investing for Your Future (continued)

For more information about this project, contact:

Barbara O'Neill
Family and Consumer Sciences Educator
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
3 High Street, First Floor
Newton, NJ 07860
E-Mail: oneill@aesop.rutgers.edu
Phone: (973) 579-0985

Livestock Slaughterhouse Cooperative Business Plan Survey ($1,000 Mini-grant)

This project will evaluate the potential for a livestock processing facility in Western Massachusetts; the survey area will include several counties in Eastern New York and Southern Vermont. Results of the survey will be used to stimulate further interest in the investment and involvement of livestock producers and community members. A steering committee is being created to guide the development of the project.

Keywords: livestock slaughterhouse cooperative

For more information about this project, contact:

John M. Gerber
Director of Extension
University of Massachusetts
212 Stockbridge Hall
Amherst, MA 01002
E-mail: jgerber@umext.umass.edu
Phone: (413) 545-5301

Local Government Issues Assessment (3, $1,000 Mini-grants)

Local municipal governments in the northeast are involved in a variety of important public policy issues facing the region. Most local officials in the region serve as volunteers, and they lack formal training in governance or many of the complex issues they face. The goal of this project is to improve local government education efforts through an assessment of the educational needs of local government officials. The project draws on previous assessments with local officials in New York (1986), Pennsylvania (1994), and West Virginia (1996). The results will be used to produce an extension bulletin and be helpful for future extension program planning, as well as for the basis of educational programs and focus groups with local government and state officials.

Collaborating partners: Cornell Cooperative Extension, Penn State Cooperative Extension and West Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Keywords: local government education

For more information about this project, contact:
Mike Hattery
Research Associate
Cornell Local Government Program
253 Warren Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-7801
E-mail: mrh3@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-1583

Timothy W. Kelsey
Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics
The Pennsylvania State University
105 Armsby Building
University Park, PA 16802
E-mail: tkelsey@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 865-9542

Michael John Dougherty
Extension Specialist
Center for Community, Economic
and Workforce Development
701 Knapp Hall
PO Box 6031
Morgantown, WV 26506-6031
E-mail: mdoerty@wvu.edu
Phone: (304) 293-6967

Minority Health Promotion ($1,000 Mini-grant)

Two-thirds of all deaths in West Virginia can be attributed to the chronic diseases of heart disease (32%), cancer (23.5%) and stroke (6.8%). Additionally the incidence of diabetes in West Virginia is 22% higher than the national average. These diseases have risk factors that could be reduced if citizens would participate in health screenings, become educated about the risks associated with these diseases, and adopt life-style changes (modify behavior) based on their awareness.

Minority Health Promotion is designed to provide chronic disease education and screening for the African American population in two rural counties (Brooke and Hancock) in West Virginia. Volunteers from religious institutions were trained to facilitate the health promotion activities in their respective congregations. The local

health department, cancer center and extension educator collaborated to provide instruction, screening and resource materials for the project.

Booklets on chronic diseases and videos were purchased to facilitate the delivery of the program. Informational sessions on cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, stress, smoking, alcohol and other drugs and risk-taking were conducted over this eight-month period. Written evaluations from the volunteer facilitators reveal that they have made changes in their diets and lifestyle as a result of being a participant in this program. Volunteer facilitators report sharing health information with approximately 344 adults and youth during the eight-month period.

Collaborating partners: local cancer center and health department, religious institutions (congregations).

Keywords: minority health

For more information about this project, contact:

Gloria Barrett
Extension Agent
West Virginia University Extension Service
840 Charles Street
Wellsburg, WV 26070
Phone: (304) 737-3666
E-mail: gbarrett@wvu.edu

Money 2000 Evaluation Research Project ($1,000 Mini-grant)

MONEY 2000™ is a first-ever national personal finance program developed by the Extension system. The program has been promoted as a five-year campaign. This study looked at participants enrolled in New York and New Jersey to determine the impact of this program upon them (i.e., specific behavioral changes made) and feedback about topics of interest and teaching strategies that could improve the program during its final year. The total sample for this study was 520 MONEY 2000™ participants, which was 22.7% of 2,292 persons who received a survey instrument. A summary of key research findings was distributed at a meeting of MONEY 2000™ state representatives in November 1999. Plans are underway for submissions about the results of this research for professional conference presentations in the year 2000 and beyond. An excerpt from the summary follows:

- Sample of 520 M2K participants: 303 from New Jersey and 217 from New York. Higher income and educational level than U.S. averages. 26.4% enrolled over 18 months; 31.2% didn't know.
- Over 80% agreed or strongly agreed that M2K provided motivation to save and reduce debt.
- 75.2% set a savings goal and 62.6% set a debt reduction goal (when they enrolled).

- Eight of ten respondents perceived some improvement in their financial situation since enrolling.
- 74.3% of respondents increased savings (median of $1,500) and 76.2% of respondents reduced debt (median of $2,000) since participating in M2K.
- Most helpful aspect of M2K: the quarterly MONEY 2000™ News newsletter. Least helpful aspect of M2K: none/nothing and 44.5% left item blank (both indicate high satisfaction with program).
- The three most frequently-mentioned effects of M2K were: awareness/knowledge, increased saving/investing, and provided motivation/reinforcement/structure/support/focus.

Keywords: Money 2000™, financial well-being, savings, debt reduction

For more information about this project, contact:

Barbara O'Neill
Family and Consumer Sciences Educator
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
3 High Street, First Floor
Newton, NJ 07860
E-Mail: oneill@aesop.rutgers.edu
Phone: (973) 579-0985

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Program ($1,000 Mini-grant)

Training volunteer town officials on land use issues in Massachusetts is an increasingly critical need. Chronic high board turnover is often attributed to member frustration with the complexity of the issues combined with the lack of accessible, locally relevant training to make their jobs easier. University of Massachusetts Extension is currently working on a Local Capacity Building Project funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection; this includes 15 public and private agencies, many of which currently deliver training on land use consistency, and all of which are searching for ways to increase the impact of their work at the street level.

The *Natural Resources and Environmental Program* is a pilot project designed to study the effectiveness of offering a second, targeted follow-up planning session for a group of town/regional planners who have already completed an introductory session on comprehensive master planning. The first master planning session took place on April 14, 1999, and included 22 individuals. The follow-up session was held on October 2, 1999; twenty of the original participants registered, eleven attended. Towns represented were in various stages of the process, from beginning stages, which resulted in just talking about the need for a master plan, to end states, which included having an actual plan in hand and wondering how to implement it. The most important take-home message from this planning session seemed to be acknowledging the absolute necessity of getting early buy-in to the process from key players in each town, and pushing to reach consensus on an action plan to implement what is discovered. Another conclusion was that gathering adequate and complete baseline data for community development, build-

outs and goals must be balanced against spending all of the plan committees' time and energy on this single aspect of the process—called "analysis paralysis." At some point, key players will need to move forward and use the data to the best advantage.

Collaborating partners: Citizen Planner Training Collaborative, Local Capacity Building Project Advisory Committee, Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Keywords: master planning

For more information about this project, contact:

Richard M. Chandler
Extension Educator
Natural Resources and
Environmental Conservation Program
University of Massachusetts Extension Service
406 Goodell
Amherst, MA 01003
E-mail: rchandler@umext.umass.edu
Phone: (413) 577-0459

Northern New York Urban Forest Demonstration Arboretum ($1,000 Mini-grant)

An educational arboretum is being developed at Extension's Northern New York Rural Education Research Center to educate citizens on community forestry needs. Citizens will be educated on proper tree selection and planting, including, for comparison purposes, tree plantings not suited. Since the devastating effects of the 1998 ice storm, Cornell Cooperative Extension has received numerous requests for advice on community tree planting choices and maintenance. In cooperation with Cornell's Department of Natural Resources and the Community Forestry Education Project, the arboretum site selection and plantings will be rated periodically for performance, appearance, and educational demonstration merit. For most trees, plantings will be paired; one receiving proper care such as training/pruning, the other not. This adds the demonstration value of proper care maintenance versus the usual situation of not maintaining urban trees once planted. This project should help communities make better site and tree selections and improve management of their tree inventories.

In addition to its aesthetic and historic value, this demonstration project promotes environmental health through ecological means—healthy trees help to rid cities of carbon dioxide, and it also possesses an economic value/health benefit—less pollution/less respiratory diseases among residents.

Collaborating Partners: Networks between certain communities and other agencies such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and local planning departments.

Keywords: demonstration arboretum, urban trees, tree hardiness, street trees, planning community forests

For more information about this project, contact:

Steve VanderMark
Environment/Natural Resources Team Leader
Cornell Cooperative Extension
1894 SH 68
Canton, New York 13617
Phone: (315) 379-9192
E-mail: svanderm@cce.cornell.edu

Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture ($1,000 Mini-grant)

Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture is an initiative designed to educate planners, citizens, and decision makers about the role of agriculture in shaping the visual, economic, and interpersonal landscape referred to as rural character. The centerpiece of the initiative is a resource kit for town planners. The resource kit describes agriculture's role in the community and receptive ways to present this to the public. It offers insights, tools and resources to prevent unintended negative consequences of land use regulations and decisions on agriculture, along with specific suggestions for enhancing and supporting agriculture.

The New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture has been promoting the resource kit and the concept of preserving rural character through agriculture for the past year. On December 3, 1999, the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension held a three-hour in-service session to train extension educators and New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture members in use of the resource kit; thirty attended. More than 700 individual citizens have been introduced to the Resource Kit in New Hampshire. Audiences have included citizen planners as well as resource people working with towns; cooperative extension, and regional planners. A request list for the resource kit has been compiled from these sessions, totaling requests from 60 towns. Resource kits will be distributed to these and other attending towns at the educational session on Preserving Rural Character at the Farm & Forest Expo or by mail.

Collaborating partners: New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture, New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, New Hampshire Office of State Planning, Rockingham Regional Planning Commission.

Keywords: agriculture, open-space, planning, rural character, zoning

Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture (continued)

For more information about this project, contact:

Jean Conklin
Dairy Specialist
University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension Service
RR 1, Box 65F
North Haverhill, New Hampshire 03774
E-mail: jean.conklin@unh.edu
Phone: (603) 787-6944

Reaching Out with Education: Speaking to the Issues ($1,000 Mini-grant)

The agricultural industry in Harford County (NJ) is on the fast track for change due to urban, environmental, and societal changes. To insure survival of the industry, agricultural producers must begin to participate in the education of this urban population. Unfortunately many producers are reluctant to answer consumer questions, and as a result, consumers are often uninformed or misinformed by the media.

This project expanded agricultural marketing and educating through an extension educator's use of a mobile educational exhibit booth at five farmers' markets located throughout Harford County. This exhibit booth was operational throughout the 1999 growing and farmers' market season for a total of 25 weeks. The exhibit was designed to cover the commodities available for purchase. Fact sheets also related to home and garden questions as well as information about pesticide handling and use, trees and shrubs, insects and soil sampling.

Materials developed include a fact sheet on "What To Do In a Pesticide Emergency," and "A Consumer's Guide to Farmer's Market Shopping." Two surveys also were conducted during the seasons, one for producers and the other for consumers. The survey findings should provide the information necessary to develop a winter training program for the farmers' market producers to improve the marketing of their goods.

Keywords: consumers' survey, farmers' market, producers' survey

For more information about this project, contact:
Robert D. Halman
Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
P.O. Box 663
Forest Hill, Maryland 21050
Phone: (410) 638-3255
E-Mail: rh6@umail.umd.edu

Strengthening Voice: Speaking Up for Gender Equity Workshop ($1,000 Mini-grant)

Strengthening Voice: Speaking Up for Gender Equity is a two-day retreat with three follow-up work sessions for women working with boys and girls. It is a highly participatory experience involving role playing, movement, writing, storytelling and small group work to explore how to effectively advocate for the development of "whole" children. The target audience for this program included 4-H club leaders and educators, mothers, teachers, community youth organizers (YWCA, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups, recreation departments and other women). The ultimate project vision is to create home environments, school classrooms and community youth groups that are open to the history, contributions, values, aspirations and perspectives of both genders. The workshop was held October 29-30, 1999. Eleven women attended. The follow-up work sessions were held November 17, December 8, and January 26, 2000. In June of 2000, a six-month impact evaluation will be conducted.

Collaborating partners: University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Pine Tree 4-H Club Foundation.

Keywords: women, gender equity, leadership, female authority

For more information about this project, contact:

Louise Franck Cyr
Community Development Specialist
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
5741 Libby Hall, Room 110
Orono, Maine 04469-5741
Phone: (207) 581-3317
E-mail: Lcyr@umext.main.edu

Telling Our Stories ($1,000)

Telling Our Stories is a collection of first person accounts by persons who experienced persistent rural poverty and used various resources to impr e their own situations. It includes a section derived from a conference of policy makers in which they had an opportunity to meet the speakers and discuss what the stories meant in terms of future poverty eradication policies and programs. This project developed from the Pathways from Poverty initiative and was designed to teach participant storytellers about the publishing process. Because of limited funds, only one individual from that group was able to participate in the development of the publication. The book is in the final rewriting and editing stage.

Keywords: poverty, publishing, rural, training, welfare

For more information about this project, contact:

Dwight Lanning
Business Systems Development
31 Booker Avenue
Benton, Maine 04901
E-mail: dlanning@ctel.net
Phone: (207) 453-2673

Initiatives:

Small Business Y2K ($25,000)

The Center secured a $25,000 Small Business Y2K Initiative grant from the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service—USDA. This supported the travel for up to two (per institution) land-grant representatives to attend Y2K training workshops. Y2K Training workshops were held across the country: Orlando (February 23-24, 1999); Boston (February 25-26, 1999); St. Louis (March 2-3, 1999); Pittsburgh (June 7-8, 1999). The purpose of the workshops was to disseminate materials on dealing with the Y2K problems to educators working with small business and agriculture.

Collaborating partners: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; Manufacturing Extension Partnership; and Small Business Administration

Keyword: Small Business Y2K

Workforce Development: Building on Community Assets to Increase Workforce Capacity ($3,500)

The Center supported a northeast regional seminar on Workforce Preparation in response to Cooperative Extension's national initiative. The seminar was held November 19-20, 1999, at The Highlander Inn and Elms Conference Center in Manchester, New Hampshire. The conference brought together extension administrators and faculty involved in workforce preparation programming to share resources to help stimulate multi-state collaboration. The conference was designed as a capacity building effort to improve the economic competitiveness and diversification of rural communities in the northeast. A community asset-building process served as a core training component of the conference. Knowledge of this process offers extension professionals a way to assist communities in building upon their social and economic strengths to provide workforce development opportunities. Another key component focused on ways to document impact results from collaborative community-based educational programming. The training offered participants program solutions to address workforce issues affecting youth, agriculture and rural communities.

State contacts have been identified to increase Workforce Development capacity in the northeast.

Collaborating partners: Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, USDA/CSREES Northeast Regional Workforce Initiative.

Keywords: agricultural workforce programming, workforce development, Workforce Investment Act, workforce preparation, workforce training, youth workforce programming.

Workforce Preparation State Contacts:

Gloria Barrett
West Virginia University Extension Service
Center for Community, Economic
and Workforce Development
840 Charles Street
Wellsburg, West Virginia 26070
E-mail: gbarrett@wvu.edu
Phone: (304) 737-3666

Aadron Rausch
Extension Specialist
Assistant Director for Outreach
Center for Families
1269 Fowler House
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-1269
E-mail: aadron@cfs.purdue.edu

Paula Gregory
Extension Specialist
Communities & Youth at Risk
University of New Hampshire Cooperative
Extension
University Center Annex
470 Commercial Street, Room 289
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101
E-mail: paula.gregory@unh.edu

Rosalie Lane
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Alabama A & M University
Auburn University
P.O. Box 967, Dawson Building
Normal, Alabama 35762
E-mail: rmlane@acesag.auburn.edu
Phone: (256) 858-4982

Berdell (Del) G. Boss
Extension Associate
Program for Workforce Quality
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Department of Education
405 Kennedy Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853-4203
E-mail: bgb8@cornell.edu
Phone: (607) 255-9262

Helm Nottermann
University of Vermont
617 Comstock Road, Suite 5
Berlin, Vermont 05602-9194
E-mail: hnotterm@sover.net
Phone: (802) 223-2389

Delores Langford Bridgette
University of DC Cooperative Extension
4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008
E-mail: dlbridgette@yahoo.com

Natalie M. Ferry, Seminar Chair
Special Program Initiatives
Cooperative Extension and Outreach
401 Ag Administration Building
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802
E-mail: nferry@psu.edu
Phone: (814) 863-7776

Workforce Preparation State Contacts (continued):

Edith C. Williams
Extension Specialist
4-H Youth Development
Maryland 4-H Center
8020 Greenmead Drive
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ew17@umail.umd.edu
Phone: (301) 403-4248

• Center Hosts Freedom House Visiting Fellow

September 1999, the Center hosted Freedom House Visiting Fellow, Maria Ostaszewska; Ostaszewska is a policy officer at the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture in Warsaw.

Freedom House's Visiting Fellows Program was launched by the National Forum Foundation in 1990 as a professional training program that provides new leaders from Central and Eastern Europe's young democracies with the opportunity to work with their American counterparts in government, non-governmental organizations, media and business.

During her two-week visit, Ostaszewska learned more about rural development in the U.S., especially in the area of sustainable community development and cooperatives. She also participated in the Center's strategic planning meeting.

• Strategic Planning Outcome

Meeting Background:

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development last completed a strategic planning process in 1990. The passage of a decade, as well as the hiring of a new director, presented the Center with an opportunity to assess its progress and chart its course for the first decade of the new millennium.

To begin this process, the Center convened a diverse set of stakeholders for a two-day strategic planning meeting in Baltimore on October 21-22, 1999. Participants included Board members, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members, staff, representatives of land grant institutions, and external partners, including Rural Development Councils and USDA state rural development offices.

Strategic Planning Outcome (continued):

Meeting Purpose:

The meeting focused on three areas:

- Refining an understanding of the strategic challenges in rural development facing the Northeast region, and in particular, how those challenges have changed since the 1990 strategic plan was issued.

- Agreeing on a process for prioritizing the issues the Center will focus on.

- Agreeing on the key roles the Center should play in addressing these issues.

Overall Agreement on Issues:

The following points of consensus for overall direction of the Center were reached. Discussion and action steps on these issues are described in more detail in the remainder of these notes.

1. **Continue the core mission.** It was agreed that the Center should continue its core mission of serving as a vehicle for supporting regional research and extension activities in support of rural development.

2. **Update the 1990 issues analysis.** The 1990 planning document has served as a succinct statement of the rural development challenges facing the Northeast region. Most of these issues remain relevant today. However, many elements of the context (federal policy, institutional infrastructure, private market developments) have changed significantly. The group agreed that the Center would provide a valuable service to the region by updating this report as a tool for education, advocacy and action planning.

3. **Focus on a more limited set of issues.** The range of rural development issues facing the region is broad and comprehensive, and well beyond the scope of an organization the size of the Center. It was agreed that the Center should use a disciplined process to select a more limited set of issues to focus the majority of its resources on.

4. **Engage the focus issues in multiple ways.** Participants defined a range of ways in which the Center could support development of an issue, including:

    - Build awareness.
    - Serve as a regional information source.
    - Organize and support a research agenda.
    - Convene and engage regional players to take action.
    - Organize funding.
    - Be a "voice" of the Northeast region.

Strategic Planning Outcome (continued):

5. **Proactively engage key constituencies and other regional players.** It was agreed that the Center should be proactive in reaching out to other organizations and institutions.

Discussion of Issues:

More detail on the discussion behind each of these issues is provided below.

1. **Continue the core mission.** The following comments were made regarding the Center's mission:

   - The primary direct customers of the Center continue to be the Land Grant institutions in the region (research and extension).
   - Given its limited resources, the Center's primary impact will be in enabling the work of others.
   - What makes the Center unique is its multi-state and regional perspective and multi-disciplinary approach. This focus should characterize all of its work.

2. **Update the 1990 Issues Analysis.** After reviewing the 1990 plan, as well as the 1998 Goals and the more recent survey results on regional priorities, the group agreed on the following points:

   - The four issues articulated in the 1990 report continue to provide a useful context for understanding the rural development challenges facing the Northeast region.
   - The context for these four issues has changed substantially in the last ten years.
   - The 1990 report was a very useful public document for awareness, education and advocacy.
   - The 1990 report should be updated to reflect changes in the regional context.

   Changes in the Regional Context:

   The following changes in regional context were discussed:

Strategic Planning Outcome (continued):

Federal Policy:

- ✓ Telecommunications Act
- ✓ New Farm Bill
- ✓ Workforce Investment Act
- ✓ Balanced Budget Act
- ✓ Welfare Reform
- ✓ Utility Deregulation
- ✓ Low priority for rural policy in Congress

Rural Development Infrastructure:

- ✓ Growth of Rural Development Councils
- ✓ Restructuring of FHA, and emphasis on rural development
- ✓ Downsizing of programs
- ✓ Reduced Land Grant resources
- ✓ Land Grant College mandates for engagement and collaboration

Other:

- ✓ Growth of the environmental movement
- ✓ Increased non-profit (NGO) capacity
- ✓ Visibility of sprawl-related issues
- ✓ Impact of big-box retail
- ✓ Further structural changes in agriculture (consolidation and concentration)

Proposed Report Elements:

The group discussed the following possible elements to the updated report:

- ❑ An update of the regional issues analysis, taking into account the developments described above.
- ❑ Updated regional rural development data and indicators.
- ❑ A definition of the research questions that need to be more deeply explored in order to develop action agendas on the issues.
- ❑ Documentation of the Center's accomplishments over the last ten years.
- ❑ Articulation of a broad regional action agenda to address the strategic issues.
- ❑ Articulation of the Center's priorities over the next five years.

3. **Focus on a more limited set of issues.** While the planning group did not seek to come to agreement on a specific set of issues for priority focus over the next five years, it did agree on the basic outlines of a process the Center should use to prioritize the issues it concentrates its resources on. Key points included:

Strategic Planning Outcome (continued):

- **Keep it lean.** The process should not be excessively time-consuming.

- **Make it clear.** The process should be well-articulated and visible to stakeholders.

- **Engage the stakeholders.** The process should involve the full range of the Center's constituencies, including:

  ⇒ Land Grant research and extension faculty
  ⇒ Rural Development Councils
  ⇒ Congressional staff
  ⇒ State USDA rural development directors
  ⇒ Local rural development non-profits
  ⇒ Agricultural Research Service
  ⇒ Foundations
  ⇒ State Farmland Preservation agencies
  ⇒ Relevant professional associations

- **Stay flexible.** The process should allow for changes in priorities over time, and should leave the director flexibility in responding to unplanned opportunities.

- **Use multiple factors to select priorities.** Final priorities for issues should be based on feedback from constituencies; timeliness of opportunities; Center capacities; and largest opportunities for impact.

4. **Engage the focus issues in multiple ways.** The Center has the greatest impact when it engages an issue in a consistent way over time, and with a variety of resources. The group described six different ways in which the Center might work on a specific issue:

   - **Build awareness of an issue.** The Center can play a role is raising awareness on emerging issues, including clearly defining the issue and its potential implications for rural development in the region.

   - **Serve as a source of regional information.** The Center and its Internet capacities provide a unique opportunity to connect regional players to sources of information on specific issues. This information can include access to existing research; tools for implementation and action; and information about best practice sites in the region.

   - **Organize and support a research agenda.** A core role for the Center is its support of a regional research agenda on rural development. The Center can support this research directly through its grants, as well as organizing a research agenda for others to pursue.

Strategic Planning Outcome (continued):

- **Convene regional players.** The Center has the opportunity to play a unique convening role around regional rural development issues. It can bring together land grant resources, rural development councils, federal agencies, non-profits and others who have a stake in a specific issue and explore opportunities for knowledge-building and action.

- **Organize funding.** In addition to its own resources, the Center can collaborate with others in raising foundation and other sources of funds to work on rural development issues.

- **Be a "voice" of the Northeast Region on rural development issues.** Because it is one of the few regional institutions, the Center can represent the interests of the region in policy discussions.

5. **Proactively engage key constituencies and other regional players.** While the primary customer for the Center is the Land Grant institutions, there are many other players involved in rural development issues in the region. It is important for the Center's effectiveness that it proactively reach out to these constituencies and engage them in dialogue about regional development issues.

It was specifically recommended that the new Center director organize a series of constituency visits. The purpose of these visits would be to:

- Introduce them to the Center and its work.
- Share with them the plans for an update of the 1990 regional issues analysis and solicit their participation in it.
- Identify the key resources in the field.
- Identify opportunities for partnership.

Next Steps:

Next steps in the planning process will include:

- The Board will review and approve the recommended strategic approaches.

- The Director will develop a work plan for:

⇒ Constituency visits.
⇒ Update of the regional issues analysis.
⇒ Prioritizing of issues for focus by the Center in FY 2001 RFP process.

• Selected Activities of the Center Director
(September-December 1999)

The new director, Dr. Stephan J. Goetz, was appointed in September 1999. His appointment is 75% as director, and 25% as professor (research) of agricultural economics at Penn State University. Since his appointment, he has . . .

Served as Keynote Speaker at the "Building Skills for Participatory Community Development" In-Service Training, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., October 1999.

Participated in the "Making Workforce Training Succeed in Northeast Communities" Workshop, Manchester, N.H., November 1999. This two-day workshop was co-sponsored by the Northeast Center, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, and USDA/CSREES Northeast Regional Workforce Initiative.

Presented a paper, "Determinants and Impacts of Net Migration at the County-Level," at the North American Regional Science Association annual meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 1999.

Participated in the ERS/USDA Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (FANRP) Roundtable on Identifying Research Priorities—Fiscal 2000, Washington, D.C., November 1999.

Drafted two NE Center Working Papers, "Rural Development Issues in the Northeast: 2000-2005," (99-1) and "Job Numbers and Industry Trends in the Rural Northeast," (99-2), December 1999.

• Author Index

A
Abdalla, Charles 9
Abel, Jennifer 19

B
Barrett, Gloria 22,30
Bridger, Jeffrey 10
Bridgette, Delores Langford 30
Booth, Nan 3
Boss, Berdell (Del) G. 30

C
Chandler, Richard M 24
Comerford, John W 17
Conklin, Jean 26
Cyr, Louise Franck 27

D
Dougherty, Michael John 21

E

F
Favero, Phil 9
Ferry, Natalie M 30
Finley, James 8
Francis, Joe D. 1
Fretts, Donald C. 13

G
Gerber, John M. 20
Gray, Barbara 9
Gregory, Paula 30

H
Halman, Robert D. 26
Hanham, Alison Chisholm 18
Hattery, Mike 21
Hicks, Lisa 9
Hosler, William "Bill" 13
Hyman, Drew 10

I
Ilvento, Thomas W 4
Ingerson-Mahar, Joe 15

J
Jacobson, Karen 4

K
Kassab, Cathy 6
Kay, David 9
Kays, Jonathan 8
Kelsey, Timothy W. 21

L
Lane, Rosalie 30
Lanning, Dwight 28
Lembeck, Carolyn 10
LeVitre, Richard 16
Loveridge, Scott 4

M
Maretzki, Audrey 19
Matson, Susan 17
McCartney, Mikal 4
McDill, Marc 8
Moffitt, L. Joe 7

N
Newman, J.J. 12
Njobe, Tandiwe L. 6
Nottermann, Helm 30

O
Oberhauser, Ann 5
O'Neill, Barbara 20,23

P
Pelletier, David L. 10
Preston, Deborah 6

Q

R
Rausch, Aadron 30
Robertson, Tahnee 10
Roper, Arthena Sewell 3

S
Schimke, Eric L. 11
Schlarb, Mary 9
Schmidt, Fred 2
Schnappinger, Amy 3
Schwartz, Mike 11
Silva, Gabriela 8

T
Thomson, Joan 19
Tomasino, Sherman 3

U

V
VanderMark, Steve 25
Varner, Wendy 14

• Author Index

W

Waltemire, Mary Ellen 3
Wells, Kendra 3
Williams, Edith C 31

X

Y

Z

• Key Word Index

A
agriculture 25
agricultural computing 13
agricultural leadership 11
agricultural workforce programming 29
amenities approach to community and economic development 18
Appalachian By Design 4
Aquaculture 12

B
barriers to health care 6
beginner investment curriculum 19
business retention and expansion 3

C
collaborative problem solving 9
Community 13
community aesthetics 18
community capacity 1,2
community development 3,10
Computer 13
conflict resolution 9
consumers' survey 26

D
dairy farm labor service cooperative 16
debt reduction 23
demonstration arboretum 25

E
early childhood community library 16
economic competitiveness 1,2
economic development 1,2
ecotourism 8
educational arboretum 24
electronic technology 13

F
farm ponds 12
farmers and computers 13
farmers' market 26
feeder calf 17
female authority 27
financial well-being 23
flexible manufacturing network 4

G
gender equity 27

H

I
income opportunities 8
integrated pest management (IPM) 15

J

K
key informant 10

L
leadership 27
livestock slaughterhouse cooperative 20

local food system 19
local government education 21

M
master planning 24
minority health 22
Money 2000 23
municipal government 13

N
non-industrial private forest landowners 8

O
open space 25

P
planners 19
planning 25
planning community forests 25
policy alternatives 7
portfolio-based development 7
poverty 27
producers' survey 26
public issues education 9
public policy 14
publishing 27

Q

R
research methodology 10
regional planning 19
Roundup program 17
rural 27
rural character 25
rural development 7,13
rural home-based business networks 4
rural poverty 14

S
savings 23
self-care practices 6
small business Y2K 29
strategic planning 31
street trees 25
sustainable development 13

T
training 27
tree hardiness 25

• Key Word Index (continued)

U
urban trees 25

W
welfare 27
women 27
workforce development 29
Workforce Investment Act 29
workforce preparation 29
workforce training 29
working poor 14

X

Y
youth 3
youth workforce programming 29

Z
zoning 25

• Regional Rural Development Centers

Cornelia Flora, Director
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Iowa State University
108 Curtiss Hall
Ames , IA 50011-1050

Phone: (515) 294-7648
Fax: (515) 294-3180
E:mail: cflora@iastate.edu
Web site: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/rdev/RuralDev.html

Stephan J. Goetz, Director
Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
The Pennsylvania State University
7 Armsby Building
University Park, PA 16802-5602

Phone: (814) 863-4656
FAX: (814) 863-0586
E-mail: sgoetz@psu.edu
Web site: http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu/

Bo Beaulieu, Director
Southern Rural Development Center
Mississippi State University
Box 9656
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9656

Phone: (601) 325-3207
FAX: (601) 325-8915
E-mail: ljb@mces.msstate.edu
Web site: http://ext.msstate.edu/srdc/

Steven E. Daniels, Director
Western Rural Development Center
Utah State University
8335 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-8335

Phone: (435) 797-9732
FAX: (435) 797-9733
E-mail: sdaniels@ext.usu.edu
Web site: http://wrdc@ext.usu.edu

Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
The Pennsylvania State University
7 Armsby Building
University Park, PA 16802-5602

814/863-4656
814/863-0586 FAX
nercrd@psu.edu
http://www.cas.nercrd.psu.edu

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; Tel. (814) 865-4700/V; (814) 863-1150/TTY. 3/00